

Public Safety Broadband Network Commission (PSBC)
Department of Public Safety Headquarters, Emergency Operations Center, Waterbury
Minutes of Meeting
September 25, 2017

- Chair, **Terry LaValley**, called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm with the following **Commission members** present: **Al Barber**, Vermont Fire Chiefs; **Frank Costantino**, Agency of Digital Services; **Thomas Hango**, Vermont State Police; **Doug Johnston**, Vermont Police Chiefs; **Ken Jones**, ACCD; **Steven Locke**; Burlington Fire Department; **Jim Porter**, Public Service; **Robert T. White**, Agency of Transportation; and also **present**: **Brandon Abley**, Televate; **Rhonda Camley**, DPS; **Doug Fellows**, Eastern Communications, LTD.; **Lisa Helme**, DPS; **Karl Rinker**, member of the public; **Suellen Royea**, DPS/CJS; **Maria Royle**, Legislative Council; **Owen Smith**, AT&T; **Michael Varney**, FirstNet; and **Steve Whitaker**, member of the public.
- **Agenda Review & Minute approval for July 27 and August 22, 2017 Meetings: Steve Locke moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion seconded by Tom Hango. Motion carried. Dan Manz moved to approve the agenda as proposed. Motion seconded by Al Barber. Motion carried.**
- **FirstNet Update, Michael Varney:** Mike Varney shared that responses to all the questions submitted by Vermont to FirstNet regarding the SPP information were sent to Terry LaValley; the final state plan and many more documents, including the responses to the questions submitted, will be uploaded to the portal this week; and the Governor's Decision section of the portal will include a site map of the changes made. Terry LaValley added that a request was made to FirstNet for a change management document. Michael Varney continued that the final plan notice for the Governor will not be mailed until the funding level determination from the NTIA is released, which they expect by the end of the week. The Governor's package will be sent overnight delivery and then the 90-day clock will start for an opt-in/opt-out decision from Vermont. In addition, a copy of the letter sent to the Governor will be emailed to Terry. A question was asked about the ease of finding the response documents. Michael Varney noted they will be found in the uploaded document repository within the Governor's Decision library. He added that the site changes requested will also be uploaded. Another question asked was whether the coverage maps would be updated. It was noted that the coverage maps will not be updated, but updated information on additional site build-outs, along with a circle coverage map, will be included in the Governor's Decision library on the portal.
- **Update from Terry LaValley, FirstNet Single Point of Contact, PSBC Chair:**
 - **Evaluation of RFP Responses:** Terry LaValley reported that the RFP will be closing on September 29, 2017 and inquired if there was a preference for evaluating the responses; possibly using working groups; or having everyone evaluate all of the responses. It was noted that the evaluation criteria was included in the RFP; however, a

scoring sheet will be developed. The consensus was that it would be best to use the working groups approach and break-out the responses by specialized sections. Terry LaValley will break-out the responses by specialized sections and staff will prepare a review schedule and will email the schedule to the working groups. It was thought that once the RFP evaluation was completed, the PSBC should have a better picture of the options for Vermont. A question was asked about Verizon's offer. It was noted that Verizon will not be offering an opt-out solution and that they are developing their own offering available to all states. It was thought that apps that work on commercial networks today would also work similarly on the FirstNet/AT&T network. FirstNet aims to develop apps that are network neutral to accommodate interoperability. A key requirement is that public safety apps will work seamlessly without interoperability issues among the different systems. Terry LaValley will distribute FirstNet's responses to Vermont's questions and the change management document when it is received. The following questions were asked and answered:

- If we opt-in, does everyone in the state automatically have to use it? It was noted that it will be up to each individual agency to choose whether or not to use the network;
 - What is the timeline of when the PSBC will make a recommendation to the Governor? It was thought around mid-November;
 - If a state opts-in, is there any financial obligation to the state? The answer was no;
 - Does someone have to be a first responder to subscribe? It was noted that anyone with ties to the EOC/utilities/first responders can subscribe;
 - How do you validate someone's eligibility? It was noted that agencies can buy services and FirstNet will contact the point of contact to verify;
 - How do you keep lists up to date? Does the commission manage them? It was noted that these questions need to be reviewed; and
 - Where do we stand nationally; has anyone in New England opted in? It was noted that 23 states/territories have opted in and Maine was one of them.
- **Public Comment:** Steve Whitaker shared that he sent an email around that lists key questions that have not been answered, including who owns all the data. The privacy of Vermont callers for services should be considered. It was thought that the states will not have any recourse and need to see the contract between AT&T and FirstNet before making a decision. Mr. Whitaker handed out a copy of a recent report. He felt there were deficiencies in the RFP that the PSBC created to seek an alternative solution and that he did not have any input. The RFP did not look at economies of scope or scale. He was concerned that another RFP would be needed to determine the best bang for our buck in implementing an alternative program. He also noted that the new iPhone does not include Band 14 capability and suggested the PSBC enlist an

outside technical firm and look at this as a higher level opportunity to account for roadside coverage, hardening coverage, a 10-year plan, LMR study, and taking an incremental hardening approach.

- **General Business:**
 - **Outreach Update:** Lisa Helme reported that presentations were given at three (3) conferences as part of our community outreach; work is underway on a Fall update newsletter; and she continues to point folks to our website. Terry LaValley added that our website is kept up to date.
 - A question asked was what activities the commission will be doing in the next 30 days. Terry LaValley reviewed that the next step is the formation of working groups and then reviewing Televate's recommendation. It was noted that the Televate review should be available in the next couple of weeks.
- **Next Meeting, October 4, 2017, was Canceled:** Terry LaValley asked for some latitude in scheduling the next meeting, which was thought to be scheduled toward the end of October.
- **Dan Manz moved to adjourn. Ken Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:11 pm.**